

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 CU-04 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /108 W

----- 102226

R 291526Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8379

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 6406

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF KOMSOMOL CONGRESS

REF: A. MOSCOW 6153

B. MOSCOW 6028

1. SUMMARY: ALL UNION KOMSOMOL CONGRESS, ATTENDED BY OVER 4,000 SOVIET YOUTHS, MET IN MOSCOW FROM APRIL 23-27. MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST WERE(1) WARM PRAISE THROUGHOUT FOR BREZHNEV; (2) RE-ELECTION OF MOST OF AGING KOMSOMOL LEADERSHIP; (3) EMPHASIS ON IMPROVING IDEOLOGICAL WORK AMONG SOVIET YOUTH; (4) ATTEMPTS TO BUILD UP ENTHUSIASM FOR YOUTH ROLE IN BAIKAL-AMUR RAILROAD AND NON-BLACK SOIL PROJECTS. END SUMMARY.

2. BREZHNEV CULT. BREZHNEV WAS WARMLY PRAISED BY ALL SPEAKERS AT CONGRESS, WHILE REST OF LEADERSHIP WAS BARELY MENTIONED. HIS OPENING DAY SPEECH (IN WHICH HE SAID LITTLE OF NOTE) WAS HAILED AS CONGRESS' HALLMARK, AND HE WAS IDENTIFIED THROUGHOUT AS INITIATOR OR SPONSOR OF ALMOST EVERYTHING GOOD THAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE COUNTRY SINCE THE LAST KOMSOMOL CONGRESS IN 1970.

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3. KOMSOMOL LEADERSHIP. E.M. TYAZHELNIKOV WAS

REELECTED FIRST SECRETARY OF KOMSOMOL CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

"YOUTH" LEADER TYAZHELNIKOV (NOW 46) IS CONSIDERED TO BE A BREZHNEV PROTEGE AND WAS RECENTLY RUMORED TO BE IN LINE TO REPLACE MADAME FURTSEVA AS MINISTER OF CULTURE. SIX OF NINE KOMSOMOL SECRETARIES WERE REELECTED. NEW SECRETARIES ARE B. N. PASTUKHOV, FORMER FIRST SECRETARY OF LATVIAN KOMSOMOL, V.V. GRIGORYEV, FIRST SECRETARY OF BELORUSSIAN KOMSOMOL, AND D.N. FILIPPOV, CURRENTLY FIRST SECRETARY OF LENINGRAD KOMSOMOL. FORMER SECRETARIES B.K. PUGO AND G.P. ELISEYEV WERE GIVEN HONRARY AWARDS IN CONNECTION WITH TRANSFER TO UNSPECIFIED PARTY WORK. FOURTEEN OF 21 FULL MEMBERS OF KOMSOMOL BURO WERE ALSO REELECTED.

4. IDEOLOGY. GREAT EMPHASIS WAS PLACED BY NUMEROUS SPEAKERS AT CONGRESS ON IMPROVING IDEOLOGICAL WORK WITH YOUTH. THIS WAS OFTEN MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH NEED FOR UNCOMPROMISING ATTITUDE TOWARD BOURGEOIS AND OTHER HOSTILE IDEOLOGIES. IMPROVEMENTS IN ARE OF "SOCIALIST MORALITY," ATTITUDE TOWARD LABOR DISCIPLINE, AND INTERNATIONALISM (AS OPPOSED TO NATIONALISM) WERE ALSO STRESSED. SEEN IN LIGHT OF SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN TIES BETWEEN CENTRAL AND REGIONAL KOMSOMOL LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP, THIS WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE SOME DEGREE OF WORRY ON PARTY OF LEADERSHIP THAT YOUTH NOT TOEING IDEOLOGICAL PATH SET OUT FOR THEM. SEVERAL SPEAKERS ALSO IMPLIED THAT YOUT ATTITUDES AMONG NON-RUSSIAN POPULATION IS A MORE GENERAL PROBLEM.

5. PROJECTS. YOUTH ROLE IN BAIKAL-AMUR RAILROAD (BAM) AND NON-BLACK SOIL PROJECT WAS MENTIONED OVER AND OVER AGAIN, PRESUMABLY TO WHIP UP ENTHUSIASM AMONG PROSPECTIVE "VOLUNTEERS" AND TO GIVE STRONG SIGNAL THAT HIGH PRIORITY BEING PLACED ON PROJECTS. AT CEREMONY ON FINAL DAY OF CONGRESS, AT WHICH BREZHNEV AND MOST OF LEADERSHIP WAS PRESENT, FIRST 600 MEMBER BAM BRIGADE MARCHED PAST PODIUM IN COVERALLS AND BAM SLEEVE EMBLEMS, THEN ON TO MOSCOW RAILROAD STATION
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: YOUTH GROUPS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), SPEECHES, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW06406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740102-0060
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974046/aaaaaeyj.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. MOSCOW 6153
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGHLIGHTS OF KOMSOMOL CONGRESS
TAGS: PINT, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005